Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A   method   for   controlling   the   delivery   of notifications comprising:

receiving a test notification request;

evaluating the test notification in accordance with one or more user contexts that have been set by one or more context setters to generate a test notification indication, the test notification indication corresponding to an indication regarding how the test notification would be handled;

providing the test notification indication;

detecting a change in the one or more user contexts;

evaluating the test notification in accordance with the one or more user contexts to generate a second test notification indication;

providing the second test notification indication;

receiving a notification from a first notification sender; and

in   response   to   receiving   the   notification,   controlling   the   delivery   of   the notification in accordance with ~~one or more user contexts that have been set by one or more context setters~~ the second test notification indication. ~~;~~

~~receiving a test notification call from an application; and~~

~~responding to said test notification call with information identifying, whether a notification from said application would be displayed based on said one or more contexts, if said application were to request a notification.~~

2.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein a user context comprises a condition that may be in first or second states, and an instruction that is to be followed if the condition is in the first state.

3.   (Original)   The method of claim 2, wherein the condition of at least one of the user contexts relates to whether or not the user is at least partially visually occupied, and the associated instruction restricts the delivery of notifications in terms of their visual display.

4.   (Original)   The method of claim 2, wherein the condition of at least one of the user contexts relates to whether or not the user is at least partially occupied by sound, and the associated instruction restricts the delivery of notifications in terms of their volume.

5.   (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein a plurality of user contexts that are associated with a specified user are set by a plurality of context setters.

6 – 35. (Canceled)

36.   (Currently Amended) One or more computer-readable media storing computer-executable instructions for performing the following steps:

establishing a plurality of user-defined conditional rules for handling incoming notifications, said rules identifying a state of computer system resources and one or more permissible notification actions based on said state of computer system resources;

providing a plurality of application program interfaces for requesting notifications to a computer user, the plurality of application program interfaces including ~~wherein~~

a ~~first~~ notification delivery interface ~~of said interfaces is~~ offered as part of a system shell ~~and~~ <u>that</u> results in a notification to said user in response to being called; <u>,</u> ~~, and wherein a call using~~

a ~~second one of said interfaces is a~~ test notification <u>evaluation</u> interface that does not result in a notification to said user in response to ~~said call~~ <u>being called,</u> but results in a response identifying whether a notification would be displayed if requested by an application calling said second interface;

and

in response to a call made using said first interface, applying one or more of said rules to provide a notification to said user.

37. (Previously Presented)   The one or more computer-readable media of claim 36, wherein said state of computer system resources identified by one or more of said rules reflects an amount of a computer system display's screen that is available.

38. (Previously Presented)   The one or more computer-readable media of claim 37, further comprising instructions to withhold a video portion of an incoming notification when said computer display is operating in full-screen mode.

39. (Previously Presented)   The one or more computer-readable media of claim 36, wherein said state of computer system resources identified by one or more of said rules reflects whether audio resources of the computer system are in use.

40.   (Previously Presented)   The one or more computer-readable media of claim 39, further comprising instructions to withhold an audio portion of an incoming notification when said audio resources are in use.

41.   (Previously Presented)   The one or more computer-readable media of claim 40, further comprising instructions to permit a video portion of said incoming notification when said audio resources are in use.

42.   (Previously Presented)   The one or more computer-readable media of claim 39, further comprising instructions to adjust a volume of an audio portion of said incoming notification when said audio resources are in use.

43.   (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the second test notification is evaluated prior to receiving a second test notification request.

44.   (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving, in response to providing the test notification indication, a test notification subscription request.

45.   (New) One or more computer-readable media storing computer-executable instructions that, when executed, perform a method comprising:

accessing a plurality of contacts from a contact list;

performing a test notification for each of the accessed contacts;

providing a notification context state to each of the accessed contacts;

receiving a notification corresponding to one of the accessed contacts; and

displaying the received notification in accordance with the provided notification context state for the corresponding accessed contact.

46. (New)   The one or more computer readable media of claim 45, wherein accessing a plurality of contacts from a contact list comprises:

receiving a test notification request from each of the plurality of contacts;

matching each of the plurality of contacts with the contact list.

47. (New)   The one or more computer readable media of claim 45, wherein accessing a plurality of contacts from a contact list comprises:

receiving a test notification subscription request from each of the plurality of contacts;

matching each of the plurality of contacts with the contact list.